

# Council rejects funds request to fight mine application

At the last Hauraki District Council meeting Waihi East Ratepayers Group Inc (WERGI) representatives Terry Podmore and Graham Walker asked council for \$12,000 to help with the group's legal fees for its submission against the Newmont Waihi Gold Correnso resource consent application.

The representatives outlined their case for funds to help with the legal costs, saying they were severely hamstrung by the short time frame.

They said there were 422 privately-owned Waihi East properties affected by the proposed Correnso development and so far all the work done on its submissions was by volunteers.

Mr Podmore said the group did not support Newmont in its effort to mine underground in Waihi East.

**“I have cracks appearing in my house and that's from Trio supposedly 400m away.”**

GRAHAM WALKER

When asked if they wanted to ban all mining, he said the group did not support Newmont in its effort to mine underground and under properties in Waihi and went on to say this decision could become a model for other mining companies to use in other areas of New Zealand.

Mr Walker said he was affected by Trio.

**“We are getting rattles. I have cracks appearing in my house and that's from Trio supposedly 400m away.”**

The group wanted an answer as soon as possible so it could take the decision back to the group at the meeting they were having the next night.

They said the money was for research, submission work, witness statements and for two legal staff to appear. It was not for any Environment Court work.

The day after the council meeting HDC's chief executive Langley Cavers said council did not think it was appropriate to fund individual groups for their legal costs.

Waihi Leader attended the WERGI meeting on Thursday but when the chairman said all items discussed had to be kept confidential, editor Fritha Tagg reluctantly left the meeting.

## ‘Power’ group forms over mining plan

Newmont Waihi Gold's application to mine under private residences has motivated another group to form in Waihi.

Protection of Waihi Environment and Ratepayers (POWER) Inc believes that mining under privately owned residential properties is not an acceptable model for Waihi, nor anywhere in New Zealand.

A spokesperson for the group, Ruth Ordish says that “the footprint of this extractive industry on the lives of the Waihi community is already too large, when considering the Martha Pit, Favona, Trio and associated activities over the past 20+ years”.

The group believes too many people have already suffered from lack of successful mitigation.

**“We only need to view the substantial complaints files to see the impacts on lives in this community.”**

These files can be viewed on the Hauraki District Council website under “mining issues”.

Power Inc has been in contact with other groups who are similarly working to challenge the proposed Golden Link model, and says it believes any further expansion or projects must only be undertaken with a fresh approach which

does not compromise the health and wellbeing of the community.

The group says it is small and focused with a wealth of knowledge and experience working towards a better, more equitable model which takes appropriate consideration of its host community.

Power Inc has legal representation for the hearings in early December and invites Waihi residents who would like to present their issues under the lawyer's presentation, to contact them by phoning 07 863 7707 or emailing waihipower@gmail.com.